



LOWCVP NEWS

Embargo: 15 July 2020 (15.00)

TRANSPORT SECRETARY SAYS NOW IS THE TIME FOR A GREEN TRANSPORT REVOLUTION

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP: *“We can reframe the narrative around green vehicles and show that it is this generation that will drive the transition to zero carbon road transport”*

Speaking at the [LowCVP's Annual Conference](#) online today, Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps has said that the Covid-19 pandemic has given us a unique opportunity to rethink the way we travel and to accelerate the development of clean technologies.

The minister's ambition is backed up by [a survey](#) of expert stakeholders – carried out by LowCVP for the event – which shows that the vast majority (92%) of respondents agree that now is the moment for a 'reset' in terms of decarbonising road transport with nearly 85% saying that the disruption caused by the pandemic has opened the door to the public accepting more radical and effective policy prescriptions for 'greening' road transport.

Speaking after the minister's statement, LowCVP's Managing Director welcomed the heightened ambition towards road transport decarbonisation. **Andy Eastlake** said: “Our target must no longer be to achieve ‘low carbon’ road transport but to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from every stage of the whole transport system.

“That's why, I'm announcing today that our partnership of over 200 organisations will be changing focus from 'low' to zero carbon and will be introducing a new brand identity to better reflect our revised objective of net zero by 2050.

“We'll be working with leading partners in the next few weeks to introduce a new name that will communicate our heightened ambition but still reflect the vital role every member has in contributing to rapid decarbonisation.”

Over 900 senior stakeholders registered to attend the LowCVP's online conference, which featured over 20 leading speakers as well as the Secretary of State from the motor and fuels sectors, government, transport operations, academia and environmental NGOs. Speakers included Sir John Armitt CBE, Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission; Caroline Russell, Local Transport Spokesperson for the Green Party and Dimitri Zenghelis, Senior Associate, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. (Download the [full agenda here](#).)

Delegates were able to respond to policy proposals from speakers and to 'policy pitches' from leading representatives of organisations as diverse as Greenpeace, Transport & Environment, BVRLA, Horiba Mira and Jacobs engineering.

Using the latest in online conference technology, delegates voted on policy prescriptions, questioned speakers, visited the online exhibition and interacted with other delegates including through some 'speed networking'

while minimising their travel carbon footprints by taking part in the event from their own homes and workplaces.

Speaking at the event, Secretary of State **Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP** said: “Part of the opportunity is to shift opinions. To impress on the country that the green transport revolution which we’ve been talking about for many years is actually happening now.

“Some of the transformational improvements are literally within touching distance.”

Commenting on the role of the Partnership he later added: “Through unprecedented collaboration with the extraordinary array of businesses, academic and environmental institutions that make up the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, this Government is putting its full weight firmly behind the Net Zero campaign.

“By working closely together, we are rebuilding our infrastructure, investing in cutting edge technology, and enabling a green transport recovery as we work towards our full Transport Decarbonisation Plan later in the year.”

The LowCVP’s conference survey found that a large majority (91%) of over 200 expert stakeholders who answered the survey think that the time is ripe to ramp-up ambition in terms of road transport decarbonisation and that there is an expectation that people are now open to more radical and rapid change.

While most respondents said that the right balance must be found between economic and environmental objectives, a significant minority (nearly 30%) also said that environmental concerns should be prioritised even if there is an economic cost. A majority of respondents (nearly 63%) think that we can achieve a 'win/win' for the environment and economic recovery if the right policies are implemented.

Over three-quarters of respondents think that in the wake of the pandemic, the £27bn earmarked for new roads in the March Budget should be reallocated to other uses.

Public and shared transport will need to play a significant part in the transition to net zero but respondents believe that it will take some time for the sector to recover. Around 25% said that it will take less than a year for public and shared transport to recover to former usage levels. A small majority (55%) think that the recovery will take up to five years, while around 13% think it will take longer or might never reach former usage levels.

In terms of how emissions reductions from road transport will be achieved, respondents were quite evenly split. Travel demand reduction was seen as the likely largest contributor followed by the mass adoption of zero emission vehicle, a shift to shared/public transport and the wide adoption of low carbon fuels.

Amongst policies favoured by expert respondents are ending subsidies on fossil fuel production, distribution and use; investment in ‘green’ technologies; regulation of the sale of petrol/diesel vehicles and the introduction of road user charging and carbon pricing.

Emerging from the lockdown, a significant majority of respondents (nearly 70%) expect to reduce their own travel across most or all of their activities. Only around a quarter of respondents expect to travel as much as they did before.

NOTES TO EDITORS

LowCVP Annual Conference 2020 stakeholder survey

The survey was launched on 25 June and received over 200 responses to ten questions by 14 July. The survey remains open. Respondents were drawn from LowCVP's stakeholder groups; specialists in road transport and its associated environmental impacts offering expert opinion from the most diverse range of perspectives.

The survey results to date are [downloadable here](#).

Grant Shapps' speech will be [available here](#) (from 3pm, 15 July)

Conference policy pitches (Doug Parr, Greenpeace; Claire Haigh, Greener Journeys and John Siraut, Jacobs) are [available here](#) and (from Greg Archer, Transport & Environment; Toby Poston, BVRLA; Peter Mock, ICCT and Greg Harris, Horiba Mira) [available here](#).

The LowCVP Annual Conference has been a leading event in the environmental transport calendar for over 17 years, involving senior stakeholders from across government and auto/energy industries, including academia, other governmental organisations, NGOs and others.

This year's event was sponsored by DPD, Shell Recharge, CNG Fuels and the Advanced Propulsion Centre.

The social media hashtag for the LowCVP Annual Conference is: **#LowCVP2020**

See the full conference agenda [HERE](#)

The **LowCVP** (www.lowcvp.org.uk), which was established in 2003, is a public-private partnership that exists to accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and create opportunities for UK businesses. Over 200 organisations are engaged from diverse backgrounds, including automotive and fuel supply chains, government, vehicle users, academics, environment groups and others.

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